

## **FACT SHEET**

### **AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR PETROLEUM REFINERIES - SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSAL**

#### **ACTION**

- On October 30, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a supplemental proposal for amendments to standards that control emissions of toxic air pollutants from petroleum refineries. The Agency is issuing the supplemental proposal based on information received since the initial proposal.
- EPA issued a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from these facilities in 1995. In August 2007, EPA proposed amendments to the 1995 standards under the Clean Air Act's residual risk and eight-year technology review provisions.
- The supplemental proposal adds to the 2007 proposal another option for controlling air toxics emissions from storage vessels located at petroleum refineries. Under the additional option, certain storage tanks would be required to comply with the control requirements in EPA's existing regulations for storage vessels, issued in 1999.
- The supplemental proposal also revises the proposed MACT work practice standards for cooling towers. It revises the definition of a leak and also revises the requirements for leak detection and repair programs. EPA made this change based on new data received since proposal.
- EPA will accept comment on the supplemental proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.

#### **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS**

- As required by the Clean Air Act, EPA analyzed emissions petroleum refineries after implementation of the 1995 air toxics standards. EPA judges the level of risk in the current refinery rule to be acceptable. The risk assessment predicts the highest maximum individual lifetime cancer risk for all of the refineries at 30-in-1 million. The total annual cancer incidence for the exposed population is 0.05 cases per year or one case every 20 years.
- EPA anticipates that these proposed supplemental amendments would reduce air toxics from refineries by about 2,250 tons per year (with a concurrent reduction of 18,800 tons per year of volatile organic compounds) and result in a nationwide savings of \$3.8 million due to reductions in product losses. Only one refinery would incur net costs, and

these costs would not result in any adverse economic impacts.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate toxic air pollutants from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is “technology-based,” where EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or source categories). The standards for large sources are known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards, and are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the better-controlled and lower-emitting sources in an industry.
- In the second phase, the law requires EPA to review the technology-based standards and revise them, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention. The law directs EPA to repeat this assessment every 8 years.
- During the second phase of the program, EPA also is required to assess the remaining health risks from each industry group for which it has set MACT standards and determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- EPA issued the technology-based rule for these facilities in 1995. The rule is one of 96 rules called maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed the toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act. The 1995 MACT for petroleum refineries reduced nationwide emissions of air toxics from these facilities by 53,000 tons per year.

## **HOW TO COMMENT**

- EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments, identified by Docket ID No.EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0146, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
  - [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
  - E-mail: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to [a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov).
  - Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-1741
  - Mail: Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460.
  - Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, 1301, Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, D.C. Such deliveries are only

accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the supplemental proposal, go to EPA's Worldwide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- Today's proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
- The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about the proposed amendments, contact Mr. Robert Lucas of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0884 or [lucas.bob@epa.gov](mailto:lucas.bob@epa.gov).